

Ruislip Residents' Association **TOWN CRIER**

September 2019

www.ruislipresidents.org.uk



Centenary of the Ruislip Residents' Association

Ruislip Manor - what has changed over the last 50 years?



Flood Risk in Ruislip

Information from the Environment Agency

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Founded 1919

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Editorial

This is our 2nd Centenary edition

Thank you to all who have commented on the last issue, our bumper-sized 32 pager. Most of the comments were very positive, but the Chief Road Steward protested that the boxes weighed too much! This issue is back to 24 pages.

In the second *Town Crier* of our Centenary year we have moved the focus to Ruislip Manor with an article by long-time resident John Hawley.

This edition breaks some new boundaries by carrying a piece by the Environment Agency on the flood risk in Ruislip. I hope you find it useful.

We also have our normal coverage of conservation, education, planning and police.

And no editorial would be complete without a plea for more volunteers! We are particularly looking for someone to help with planning (see page 23).

Graham Bartram

Graham Bartram, Editor Pro Tem

Please note that the views expressed in articles in the Town Crier are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Ruislip Residents' Association.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Vacant

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CONSERVATION

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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EDUCATION

Susan Midgley

RAF NORTHOLT LIAISON

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WOODLANDS & ENVIRONMENT

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RUISLIP RETAIL AREA

Vacant

MANOR RETAIL AREA

John Hawley

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Vivien Alcorn

MEMBERSHIP

Alan Wenman

TRAFFIC & PARKING

Vacant

HS2

Phil Taylor

WEBSITE & IT

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PLANNING

Mike Hodge

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN

www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com

Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the 1st Friday, 2nd Friday and 3rd Thursday of every month, at 9.30am.

Everyone welcome - tools and refreshments provided - no experience necessary.

Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.

Gardening dates: September 6th, 13th, 19th; October 4th, 11th, 17th; November 1st, 8th, 21st; December 6th, 13th, 19th; January 3rd, 10th, 16th; February 7th, 14th, 20th.

Conservation dates: September 26th; October 24th; November 28th; December 26th; January 23rd; February 27th.

The Gardens Café is now open daily from 8.30am (10am on Sunday) until 2.00pm.

THE ARTS SOCIETY, HILLINGDON

Lecture Programme September-December 2019

Wednesdays at 2.00pm, Winston Churchill Hall - admission £9 to non-members

11 September	Modigliani & Bohemian Paris 1906-1920	Julian Halsby
9 October	18th Century Landscape Gardens & Art	Michael Liversidge
11 December	The Christmas Story in Medieval Art	Sally Dormer

RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Lecture Programme September 2019-February 2020

Meetings held in St Martin's Church Hall, 8.15pm. Visitors welcome.

16 September	Victorian Leisure: the organisation of recreation in Victorian London	Ian Bevan
21 October	AGM & Medieval Ruislip	RNELHS Medieval Research Group
18 November	Codebreaking : Eastcote to GCHQ	Ronald Koorm
20 January	Bertram Park, Royal Photographer and Gardener	Philip Toms
17 February	Excavations at Eastcote House Gardens	Les Capon

Chairman's Message



Our Centenary Year project, to plant 100 oak trees in Ruislip has been well received, especially by the local schools. Sue Midgley has included a story about it in her education news (see page 10). The oak is the symbol of Ruislip and we could do with some more in the town.

In this second Centenary Edition of the *Town Crier* we have a special article on Ruislip Manor, looking back on the changes in the past 50 years, written by our Treasurer, John Hawley. See how many of the old places in the Manor you remember.

Talking of the Manor, recent political upheavals mean that the MP for the Manor, the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, is now the Prime Minister! This could certainly make life interesting in our area. I just hope the Special Escort Group, those policemen on motorcycles that accompany VIP cars, are aware of our local traffic jams when planning for the PM's cavalcade. It just took me over an hour to get from Hillingdon Hospital to the High Street - it only took about 10 minutes to do the reverse journey.

What will this change mean for the big local issues: the lack of visible policing and

the consequent fear of crime; HS2 and the problems it is causing our community (apart from the mind-boggling cost); Heathrow Airport's expansion plans and how they will affect aircraft noise and pollution; the new hospital needed to replace Hillingdon Hospital (with its £200M maintenance backlog). Mr Johnson was vocal on these matters in the past, so hopefully he will support his constituents now he is Prime Minister. Only time will tell.

Our other MP, the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, has been appointed a Minister of State in the Northern Ireland Office, whilst retaining his position as Minister for London. As I grew up in Northern Ireland I wish him good fortune with his new post.

My thanks go to my fellow Executive members for their hard work on behalf of Ruislip's community, all of it on a voluntary basis.

If you have not yet paid your subscription, you can find a form on page 15 or pay online on our website:

<http://www.ruislipresidents.org.uk>

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM in September (see the back page), but in the meantime if you see me on the High Street feel free to stop me for a chat! ♦

Graham Bartram, Chairman, ☎ 01895 673310

Ruislip Manor 50 years on

John Hawley

If you walked down the street and passed a Co-op, Tesco, Barclays Bank, NatWest, Lloyds and W.H. Smith, you would be forgiven for thinking you were walking down any present-day centre-town, high street. In fact, it would be the Ruislip Manor of 1972 and you could add to this assemblage of well-known businesses some bygone names such as Trueform, Woolworths, Garners, Dewhurst, Timberland, City Tote, Bunces, Sketchley and Rediffusion - all of which were to be found in the parade at that time.

Victoria Road, Windmill Hill, Park Way, Pembroke Road, and Manor Way all form part of what we locals affectionately call the "Manor" in terms of shopping and services. The outlets listed above were typical of many similar shopping streets of the 1970s, but all of these parades have undergone huge changes since then. The loss of the banks, as a result of so many financial transactions now taking place online, could not have been foreseen; neither could the online shopping revolution which has transformed the way many businesses function, or need to function these days, so that what we see now is very different from half a century ago.

The Kemp's Directory of 1972 lists premises prior to the huge expansion of supermarkets and retail parks, so it is no surprise to record that the Manor had one fishmonger, four bakers, five greengrocers (inc. the Co-op), six grocers (including Tesco where Superdrug is now) and seven butchers. Today there is only one butcher, two bakers - the new Wenzels and the Cake Shop on Park Way - and two greengrocers to add to Tesco and Budgens. By far the most numerous type of shop, out of at least seventy-three different classifications in the Manor of 1972, and leaving out those mentioned above in this paragraph, was shoes/shoe repairs and News/Tobacconists - with seven premises for each of these two classifications. This is followed by Ladies' Fashion (6) and Ladies' Hair (5). Barbers and ladies' hair salons are still well represented through ten establishments today, split between barbers and ladies' hair salons, and there are now six Estate/Letting Agents as against four in 1972.

Not many people would estimate that the Manor has around 140 business premises; a number similar to 1972. The 'mix' is, however, maybe now far more eclectic than in

1970s, with the following classes of business simply not present then: Antiques, Tattoo Artists, Thai Massage, Tax Accountants, Mobility Services, Mower Services, Acupuncture, Locksmith, Gyms (3), Mini Cabs, Dog Grooming, Beds/Bedding (2), Ironing Services (2), Yoga, Hearing Aid Services, Chinese Medicine/Herbalist, Children's Learning, Schoolwear, solicitor, Nails and Beauty (2), Charity Shop (3) and Cards. It is no surprise to find the increase in services and health provision, given the modern trends and needs in that direction – and what shopping area can boast three gyms?

Notwithstanding the 'new' listings above, the greatest retail frustration in 1972 would have been in trying to find somewhere to have a snack or a restaurant meal, for there were just three cafes (inc. the Manor Café on the roundabout – now a pizza parlour), two fish and chip shops (Regents and Huttons), a milk bar (also Regents) and the Windmill Pub and Hotel. The Manor, of course, was not alone in its day in having limited sit-down meal provision. Now there is a veritable profusion of exciting cosmopolitan restaurants and cafes for one to dine: Jamaican, Portuguese, Italian, Bangladeshi, Turkish, French, Chinese, Sri Lankan, Greek, Mediterranean, Indian, and Thai. The eight or so modern take-aways include the multiples Dominoes and Pizza Hut, two kebab/meze shops, chicken meals and several Chinese outlets. Whilst the Manor lost the Windmill Pub, it gained



One of the shopping parades on Victoria Road



Another parade with the distinctive set-back flats above



The new Ruislip Manor library

"JJ Moons" (more affectionately referred to as "the Moons" or "JJs") where once was Woolworth. There are several smaller pubs too (Hennesseys and the St. George's Tavern) south of the bridge. There can be no doubt that the great variety of eating establishments, trading as they do until late into the evening, has added a fantastic vibrancy to the parade. The Manor of 1972 would have gone 'dark' around the closing time of 5.30pm; earlier on winter 'early-closing' Wednesdays.

Just under one-fifth of business premises in the Manor - around 27 - now cater for a patron to get a meal and a drink, or at least walk out with a roll, cake or sandwich. Whilst the old-established Sixty-Six Bakery closed, there was a recent replacement across the road with Wenzels; the closure of the Elachi Restaurant brought in another 'multiple' in the form of Dominos Pizzas whilst the Manor Café has become Manor Pizzas. In this way the Manor has 'morphed' over the years - vacant premises are usually quickly re-occupied. The 'multiples' just mentioned, plus Budgens, Tesco, Pizza Hut, Dreams J.D. Wetherpoon, Coral, William Hill, Master Chef and Costa, represent about 8% of Manor trading, meaning the vast majority of businesses are still of the 'independent' type.

There are some interesting stories to be told on businesses pre-dating 1972. Martin Clarke fireplaces were present but

moved to Eastcote; Tesco were present but moved away and came back a few years ago on Park Way; W.H. Smith are back again in the 'Local' version on Victoria Road. Some businesses have been in the Manor for a long time: the Art Gallery (pictures and framing) dates to 1955 - started by Norman Grout. The business has, in fact, occupied three premises before taking up the current location on the east side of Victoria Road near the roundabout in 2004. The Post Office became a sub-Post Office and moved twice, taking it to the east side of Victoria Road and, just recently, Ruislip Tyre Service moved from Park Way to opposite the Crematorium gates after at least forty seven years trading and have added MOT tests to their services. Westfair Bathrooms closed some years ago - the premises is now occupied by Bedtime. Ruislip Appliances is now seen under the "Euronics" banner, but who can forget the former Crops and Robbers (now "Yana") and Mr Trendy menswear next to them? Henry Paul (undertakers) is another old established firm. Many premises ply the same sort of trade from the same premises as their 1972 counterparts, but under a different name - Kwik Fit on the Cornfield and Smith site springs to mind. Some of the 1972 businesses are not represented in the Manor for type today: shoes and shoe repairs, baby items, dairy, bicycles, jeweller, prams, coal merchant, menswear, wallpaper and paints, fishmonger, TV rentals, sports shop, ladies'

outfitters and lingerie, florist, coins, furnishing amongst others.

Some major buildings have been demolished and are much missed from the town: Crown Buildings, housing HMRC and a Driving Test centre, was an iconic 1962 building on Windmill Hill; the Windmill Pub occupied the site opposite and was equally a landmark. One positive change was that of the move of the library to a new purpose-built building in Linden Avenue in 2007; the old library, on the roundabout, being skilfully re-engineered into flats.



The old library, now private flats

I cannot end this article without mentioning the regeneration of the centre some five years ago. Around £3m of GLA and LBH funds were spent on new paving, lighting, seats, revamped shop fronts, signage and trees. This has been hugely welcomed by all who shop and do business in the Manor. The works have added colour, cohesion and vibrancy to the street scene. All the old trees were removed with new

plantings of just one species and the bridge was painted, lettered and illuminated. Trade in the Manor has, of course, always been greatly assisted by good transport links, including our beloved 'Tube', which I dub "The EI" (after the NYC "Elevated Railway")!



The commemorative plaque set in the pavement

I conclude with our best wishes to all the traders and have a great **Fun Day** on **30th November**. It is my personal hope that any new, or replacement, security shutters are the 'see-through' type to keep that after-hours experience one of illumination and vibrancy. It is no fun on visits to the USA. seeing walls of steel on shop fronts after sunset! I have been a resident for nearly thirty-five years and it has been interesting to observe all the changes over those years in our area but, please, do support your local shops and businesses and help keep our street scene alive and evolving well into the future. ♦

Education News

Susan Midgley

RUISLIP SCHOOLS SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION'S CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

As part of our centenary celebrations we are hoping to plant one hundred trees in our local area which will have a positive effect on our environment, now and in the future.

Every one of our local primary schools and our two secondary schools has agreed to plant a tree on their site which will take place starting in October. Preliminary visits have been made to discuss suitable sites and, if necessary, any preparatory work deemed necessary prior to planting. Our Woodlands Committee Member, Graeme Shaw, has spoken to some of the pupils about the importance of trees and how to care for them. One of our local councillors, Cllr Devi Radia, suggested that it would be good to include a special school. The Headteacher of Pentland Field Special School was contacted and agreed to take part in the project. As the school is just over our border in Ickenham, their Residents' Association was contacted and they readily gave their blessing for the go-ahead.

Oak saplings have been chosen for the school sites. There are two main reasons

for this choice: firstly it seemed particularly appropriate as the oak tree features on the coat of arms of Ruislip/Northwood, officially granted on June 22nd 1937; secondly we have unwanted oak saplings growing in our local woods (thanks to the acorn burying exploits of squirrels and jays!) These saplings will be dug up in the autumn, prepared and re-planted.

For further updates please visit our website in the next few months or contact:

✉ education@ruislipresidents.org.uk

LADY BANKES JUNIOR SCHOOL'S YEAR 6 LEAVERS' CONCERT

On Thursday, July 11th the school presented a wonderfully entertaining show with the great title of **Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies**. Headteacher, **Mrs Kate Needs**, welcomed the audience and informed them they were "*in for a treat*" and she was not wrong!

There was a lively opening to the show as we were introduced to Maid Marion played by **Kayla**, who had returned from a stroll in Sherwood Forest much to the dismay of her guardian Nursie Gerty, played by **Priyanshi**,

who felt that she could have been in danger alone in the forest. The action was accompanied by an enthusiastic rendition of the song, *When You're Living in Sherwood*.

Soon we met the unpleasant Sheriff of Nottingham, played by **Nathan**, who was spokesperson for the evil King John, played by **Max M.** Both boys gave amazingly confident performances throughout the show for boys of their age. We learn that the king is to put up the taxes, much to the dismay of the villagers.

Another stellar performance was given by **Dillon** who played the histrionic Robin Hood who announced his arrival by proclaiming: *The name's Hood, Robin Hood, licensed to thrill!!!* He and his Merry Men, a group of wandering performers, are honing their song and dance skills in a secluded part of the forest. The Skunk Scouts entered and presented Robin with a letter from Marion. Some good news prompted them to burst into dance and song.

Later Robin received an application for a new member for his group – one Will Scarlet played by **Reuben** - who very ably conveyed all the dash and humour of his character, not to mention his very dodgy skills with the bow and arrow!

As the plot moved on two ex-burglars, Grabbit played by **Nimi** and Bolt played by **Sachi** (amusingly referred to as “a pair of



Nursie, Made Marion & Will Scarlet



Robin & The Sherwood Hoodies



King Richard (behind), Sheriff & King John

Nickers”) join the king’s Castle Crew along with Gavin Gutwrencher played by **Erica** and his sidekick Genghis played by **Jack M** who torture the king’s enemies with their new invention The Squisher.

True to the original tale of Robin Hood, he and his Merry Men rehearse stealing from the rich to give to the poor. However, they were not very good and managed to return the money they stole, much to Marion’s disgust.

The Sheriff prepared to capture Robin but this did not go to plan. Grabbit and Bolt mistakenly brought Marion to the king who realised that she could be used as bait for Robin and she was sent to the castle dungeon. His plan worked and Robin, Nurse and most of the band were captured. After a few surprising twists and turns in the plot, the show finished with a great performance by Robin and the Merry men for which Robin was awarded *an Oswald!*

This was undoubtedly one of the best shows that the school has produced. It was a very polished performance with some amazing singing, dancing and acting from all the pupils who had enjoyment written all over their faces throughout. The set, costumes and props added to the audience’s enjoyment. Congratulations to all the staff and pupils whose hard work produced such a great show.

WARRENDER SCHOOL’S YEAR 6 LEAVERS’ SHOW

On Wednesday, July 3rd the pupils who will be moving on to secondary schools in September presented their final show for parents and friends. The title of the show was **Rock Bottom** named after the fictional Stone Age village where the story was set. *The Time Keepers* played by **Bonnie, Ameera** and **Josh** explained that they were taking the audience back to the year 5000BC when “*it all began*”; they were turning back the clock. This was illustrated by the cast enthusiastically singing the opening song *Tick Tock* and performing a lively dance.

The audience was then introduced to the Cobblestone family consisting of Mr Cliff Cobblestone played by **Gabriel**, his wife Mrs Coral Cobblestone played by **Scarlet**, the twins Zig and Zag played by **Louie** and **Alexa** and Bobby Cobblestone (known as BC) played by **Milly**, all of whom gave very confident performances.

Later we met the inimitable Lady Lava who was obsessed with preserving her youthful features, played ably by **Charlotte** and her long-suffering assistant Gravel played by **Anjali**. As Rock Bottom was situated within distance of the volcano **Krakatoe-or-Two**, Lady Lava summoned the Mini Miners and instructed them that they must mine for *cellulite* so that she might retain her youth forever. There couldn’t be a show set in prehis-

toric times without the appearance of a dinosaur and the audience was not disappointed. Bobby Cobblestone took a dinosaur's egg to Wild Willy. When it hatches it is named Rex and Willy is joined by the rest of the cast who sing to the baby dinosaur welcoming it to their life.

Bobby Cobblestone is something of an inventor. Lady Lava was impressed with the latest invention and promotes Bobby to the Egg Heads. There followed many twists and turns in the plot but finally Bobby invents a potion that reduces Lady Lava to a baby. Her wish for eternal youth had been granted so she would no longer pose a threat to the villagers of Rock Bottom. The message was that the secret of success is Perseverance which Bobby conveyed to the audience.

This was a delightful performance by all the pupils. Their singing, dancing and acting was excellent and they were able to convey the humour of the script, much to the delight of the audience who responded with appreciative applause at the end of the show.

Mr Wright, Deputy Headteacher, thanked everyone for their efforts which he said made him very proud of them. He also warmly thanked **Miss Spooner** for all the time she had spent over several weeks of rehearsals to produce such a fantastic end result. ♦



The Cobblestone Family



Lady Lava & Gravel



The Time Keepers

Flood Risk in Ruislip

RUISLIP – PARK WOOD AND PINN MEADOWS FLOOD PARTNERSHIP

The Environment Agency (EA) are working with the London Borough of Hillingdon and local communities to understand the causes of flooding in the Ruislip area and to identify the best solutions to reduce the risk of flooding in the future.

The area being looked at as part of this project is defined as the area shown by the image below:



It includes Park Wood to the north, King's College Playing Fields, Pinn Meadows and the communities affected by flooding in the local area.

If you would like to find out more, you can visit our dedicated project webpage at:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/hnl/ruislip-pwpm-flood-partnership>



How you can help us:

- ◆ champion the need for managing flood risk locally
- ◆ help us identify additional sources of funding
- ◆ tell us how you have been impacted by flooding
- ◆ share your knowledge of the local area with us
- ◆ report flooding using the contact details below, and to Thames Water using their questionnaire:

<https://inyourarea.thameswater.co.uk/-/media/Site-Content/Thames-Water/Help-and-Advice/Sewer-flood-ing-questionnaire.pdf>





What happens next?

- ◆ we will continue to secure funding for this project
- ◆ our consultants will use updated flood model information and local knowledge to determine what options can be taken forward
- ◆ in 2020 we will consult on these options.

If you want more information or want to get involved please contact:

- ◆ HNL-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk
- ◆ Brook Drive, Evelyn Avenue and Brook Close Flood Action Group:
floodactiongroup@gmail.com
- ◆ North Ruislip Flood Action Group:
nruislipflag@gmail.com
- ◆ Ruislip Woods National Nature Reserve Management Advisory Group:
http://www.ruislipwoodstrust.org.uk/about_RWMAG.htm

CONTACT NUMBERS:

EA customer service line for general enquiries: ☎ 03706 506 506

EA hotline to report flooding or other environmental incidents: ☎ 0800 80 70 60

Floodline to sign up to receive flood warnings: ☎ 03459 88 11 88. ◆



Annual General Meeting

7.45pm, Thursday, 26th September 2019

The Great Barn, Manor Farm, Bury Street, Ruislip HA4 7SU

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Talk by Lucy Allard from the Environment Agency on managing flood risk in Ruislip
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
6. Proposed change of rules to confirm our non-profit status
7. Election of Chairman and Executive Committee 2019-2020
8. Open Forum - with questions to a panel of RRA representatives
(Items to the Secretary by Thursday, 19th September)
9. Any Other Business
10. Close of Business

Followed by informal discussions.

Wine, fruit juices and snacks will be served. The meeting will end at 10pm. ♦



The Winston Churchill Hall



The Foyer

Conservation Concerns

Paul Mitchell

This is a summary of the planning applications received during the first half of 2019 within the Ruislip Conservation Areas and Areas of Special Local Character (CA/ASLCs). It is intended to help residents understand the scale and nature of the planning activity in these areas, indicate why applications have been refused by the Council, and highlight any key trends.

The number of planning applications in these areas appears to be declining over time. Within the CA/ASLCs 37 planning applications were received during the first half of 2019. This figure is 26% down on the same period in 2018. The same pattern was apparent at the last report. At the same time the rate of refusals in the CA/ASLCs is increasing. Of the 37 applications, 13 were approved, 12 refused, and the remaining 12 remained undecided as at 20 July 2019. So to date almost 50% of applications in the first half of 2019 were refused, compared with 34% in the first half of 2018. This is again consistent with the pattern observed last time.

These two apparent trends combined have resulted in the number of approved

applications approximately halving year-on-year within these areas. So there is currently a lot less development occurring within the CA/ASLCs than previously.

Each approval/refusal decision follows detailed consideration and consultation by the Council Planning Department and their decision is supported by specific reasons, cross-referenced to policies where relevant. We (Ruislip Residents' Association) continually monitor all applications as they arrive and submit our concerns and/or suggestions to the Council whenever we feel it appropriate. Between us we are striving to retain the character of the area while of course not resisting positive proposals.

The locations of the 37 applications were widespread across the area but the roads with the most applications in this period were Manor Way (5), Ickenham Road (4), Pinn Way (4) and Sharps Lane (4).

The refused applications were mainly extensions, some including garage conversions. The main reason for refusal was the impact on the character and appearance of the specific locality of the site, but other

reasons included overlooking neighbouring properties. A couple of applications

were refused as they did not qualify for permitted development, as applied for.

Address & Reference No.	Refused Applications
22 Manor Road 67681/APP/2019/26	Part two storey, part single storey rear extension and addition of side dormer
26 Ickenham Road 74449/APP/2019/80	First floor side extension and conversion of garage to habitable use involving alterations to elevations
9 Ickenham Road 70106/APP/2019/94	Single storey rear extension to existing shop and creation of first floor to create a studio flat. (Appeal 8811)
6 King Edward's Road 47300/APP/2019/210	Single storey side extension, first floor rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable use, involving alterations to front and side elevation
100 Manor Way 74017/APP/2019/240	Single storey side/rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable use including alterations to front elevation
178-182 High Street 28388/ADV/2019/4	Installation of 1 x fascia sign. (Appeal 8860)
Garages off Green Walk 73047/APP/2019/398	Two x 4-bed self-contained dwellings with associated parking and amenity space involving demolition of existing garages
114 Sharps Lane 36829/APP/2019/563	First floor rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable use to include alterations to front elevation (Resubmission)
7A Manor Road 69063/APP/2019/912	Conversion of roof space to habitable use to include 3 rear dormers and conversion of roof from hip to gable end to both sides
42 Wood Lane 45519/APP/2019/941	First floor rear extension and alterations to rear elevation
8 Brickwall Lane 56958/APP/2019/1161	Single storey side/rear extension, single storey rear extension and single storey side extension, involving alterations to rear elevation and demolition of existing garage (Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for a Proposed Development)
102 Sharps Lane 10410/APP/2019/1476	Single storey rear extension including alterations to rear elevation (Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for a Proposed Development)

One other issue which residents have been asking about is what's happening at the fenced-off site which the Citizens' Advice Bureau used to occupy at the top of the High Street, next to the War Memorial. In May 2018 planning permission was granted for demolition of the single storey building occupying the site. However, heritage assets of archaeological interest survive on the site, and it was agreed that demolition would not take place until the Council had a programme of archaeological works. That

was received, but unfortunately the contractor awarded the demolition work withdrew just before work was due to start in April so the Council project management team have had to appoint an alternative contractor and go through their normal due process which has delayed everything further. The archaeological work cannot begin until the demolition work is complete. At the time of writing we understand that demolition is due to commence in the week commencing 5th August. ♦

Treasurer's Corner

John Hawley

Many thanks for all those who have renewed their RRA subs for 2019 and also for the much appreciated donations without which we would cease to exist.

I think that any issues relating to online payments were resolved fairly quickly, but do let us know if any problems arise in the future. About two-fifths of our income came in online, with the rest being made up through the Mail Boxes Etc. facility. I hope you all found the new location for the latter to be more convenient. There is always a ready welcome from Martin and his helpers at Mail Boxes as a place to weigh letters and parcels and to post them.

Subscriptions and donations are proving just sufficient to cover our needs and allow us to donate £100 to each of Ruislip Manor and Ruislip Chambers of Commerce for the Christmas Lights Appeals. Donations are always welcome at any time.

We ask anyone who has not yet paid for 2019 to use the form below or to use the online facility (<http://www.ruislipresidents.org.uk>). Anyone who has paid, but wishes to donate, may also use these methods to assist us. Your subscriptions and donations allow us to continue the work of looking at local issues and responding to them when needed. ♦



To: Hon. Treasurer, Ruislip Residents' Association,
Mail Boxes Etc. Box No. 231, 161 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 8JY

Please find enclosed £5.00 for the 2019 subscription and a voluntary donation of £
giving a total of £ which is paid by cash*/cheque* (* please indicate)

Cheques should be made payable to 'Ruislip Residents' Association'. Please do not send coins by post. The cashing of your cheque is proof of its receipt.

Name(s):

Address:

..... Post Code:

Police Points

Brian Gunn



Since my last report there has been a real issue of concern for many of our residents – the number of burglary/ aggravated burglary offences taking place in the Ruislip area. In May, I attended a West Ruislip Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting. The incidence of burglaries was high on the agenda. We heard from the police representatives that there had been a spike in the number of burglaries but by the time of our meeting this had dropped off. The police spoke as to how they have been liaising with Hertfordshire police and we heard about the shared intelligence reporting between the respective Forces which appeared to be having the right effect as burglars were known to be coming from outside the Met area. The police reported covert anti-burglary patrols taking place as well as an initiative – “Operation Sidewinder” – with extra funding being given to the police to help combat these offences.

Following this, on the 15th of May, the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP (then Minister for Policing) hosted a public meeting in Northwood Hills to debate and discuss the police response to the residents’ concerns regarding burglary offences in Ruislip and Pinner. Prior

to the meeting he had circulated an e-mail explaining the work he had been doing – liaising with police Commanders locally and meeting with local residents’ groups to discuss their concerns and frustrations around this issue. He confirmed that the police were giving this matter priority and explained as to how working together more effectively through community engagement helps make our area safer. At the meeting itself, which was well attended by residents, two senior police representatives – Superintendent Claire Clark from Harrow and Superintendent Duncan Slade from our West BCU – spoke about the incidence of burglaries and aggravated burglaries that had been reported. They explained that sometimes it is difficult to categorise and differentiate between aggravated and non-aggravated burglaries (having a firearm or weapon of offence at the time) and so the perception of an increase in the more serious type – aggravated burglary – can be distorted. They spoke of the work the police were doing – alongside their CID colleagues – with measures including active response/ reactive response/community work. They assured us that all burglaries were treated seriously – and the police are working

across the Met area as well as with outside forces as it was known that burglars were travelling into and across our area using the road networks. Measures taken include prioritising forensic work, recruiting/retaining detectives and using predictive patrolling technology. Recent successes included 35 arrests, more arrest warrants being issued, and more work being done targeting handlers of stolen goods. Consequently, they reported that there has been a drop in burglary crimes and they are now looking at more preventative work. However, having said all that, the police were left in no doubt of the anxiety felt by the residents as expressed by many contributors – with some residents recounted disturbing stories of their personal experiences of burglaries and the lack of urgent police response times particularly at night.

On the 3rd June I attended the Eastcote and East Ruislip Safer Neighbourhood Panel. Again, unsurprisingly, burglary offences were at the forefront of discussion and I gave the meeting a resume of the public meeting. On other matters there were concerns regarding the drug offending in areas such as the Sigers, Gerrard Gardens, Deanscroft, etc. The police were aware and were giving this attention with assistance from the Violent Crime task Force members and support teams assisting the local Safer Neighbourhood team. Two dealers who were described as prolific offenders are currently facing charges.

On a different note – another scam has come to attention! The scammers present themselves as seeking charitable donations – for example for disabled charities – asking for your signature and postcode to go on a form. Then they ask for a signature to be shown from a bank card to be sure that they are identical. When a bank card is shown they then have access to the 3-digit security number and the details of the account. Please be aware and never show your bank cards to strangers, no matter how plausible they seem!

Other news – it has been decided that the public counter facility at Ruislip Police station, manned currently by volunteers, will have ceased to operate with effect from July 31st this year. This decision was taken at high level and will not be reversed. The police, having sold off large parts of their estate, now need to use the station to house other units such as the Sexual Offences team and forensic staff. All available accommodation there will be taken up and even former meeting rooms taken over as office space.

Finally, again a plea to register on the online watch link (OWL) at <http://owl.co.uk>. There have been a number of offences and offenders detected and caught and property recovered as a result of local residents' assistance using this valuable information tool.

 police@ruislipresidents.org.uk ♦

Planning Update

John Williams

Firstly an update on the four applications reported in the last issue :

7 LARNE ROAD: following the refusal of the original application for a large ground floor and roof extension a revised version, which was more in keeping with its surroundings, has since been approved.

PEMBROKE HOUSE, PEMBROKE ROAD: where the appeal against the Council's refusal for a two storey rear extension has now been approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

ROTARY HOUSE, BREAKSPEAR ROAD: where an application to add a third floor to create four new flats has yet to be determined.

The redevelopment of the Scout huts in Ladygate Lane and St Catherine's Road is still to be finalised. Conditional approval has been granted at the St Catherine's Road site for a new building whilst at the Ladygate Lane site the application has been the subject of various amendments, not least the reduction from five to four houses. At the time of writing a decision is still awaited.

With the year just over half way through the Council has already received Borough wide over 2,300 planning applications ranging from large developments to minor house extensions. This gives an indication of the volume of work officers are dealing with. In our area some of the more interesting applications which at the time of writing decisions are awaited include:

LAND ADJACENT TO WHITEHEATH JUNIOR SCHOOL: where the Council propose the development of five dwellings.

106 PEMBROKE ROAD: the addition of a third floor to create 1x3 bed and 3x1 bed flats.

LAND AT THE REAR OF 42-48 WINDMILL HILL: proposed five storey building to create a workshop area at ground and first floor level and 3 x studio flats above.

26 BROADWOOD AVE: where, following the Planning Inspectorates dismissal of an appeal against enforcement action and the eight month period of grace granted to rectify the deficiencies has expired, another application has now been submitted. It appears that like the previ-

ous proposals this is proving to be a difficult one to resolve.



26 Broadwood Avenue

As you can see there is a lot happening in the planning world and it is important

that Ruislip Residents' Association keeps a "handle" on it. Unfortunately I feel that after many years of working on planning for the RRA I no longer have the capability of carrying out the work as I would want it done. So is there anyone in our readership who is interested in helping the community and has an interest in planning matters? The information we use is available on the web and nowadays we communicate with planning officers via email. If you are interested please contact our Chairman, Graham Bartram. ♦

Houses of Parliament Visit

Vivien Alcorn

I am pleased to announce that another Guided Tour of the Houses of Parliament has been arranged for the morning of Monday, 14th October, courtesy of our local MP, Nick Hurd's office.

As before, the 20 places on offer will be reserved on a first come, first served basis (two places per resident household).

To apply, please send your request to: social@ruislipresidents.org.uk stating



whether you would like to reserve one or two places. Let me know whether you have previously applied without success.

These tours are always popular, so don't delay! ♦



RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.45pm, Thursday, 26th September 2019

The Great Barn, Manor Farm, Bury Street, Ruislip HA4 7SU

Doors open at 7.30pm

The Guest Speaker will be Lucy Allard
from the Environment Agency, talking about
"River Pinn project team – working together to manage flood risk in Ruislip",

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE!

RUISLIP MANOR

followed by an Open Forum, with questions to a
panel of RRA representatives.

The meeting will end at 10pm. Wine, fruit juices
and snacks will be served.

Open Forum items to the Secretary by Thursday,
19th September 2019.